

President-Elect Report – Emilio Russo, MD, FAAFP

Welcome to the 79th Annual Assembly and Exhibition of the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians. It is a privilege to gather with colleagues who share a commitment to strengthening family medicine and improving the health of the people of Louisiana.

Serving as your President-Elect this past year has been a tremendous honor. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me and for the opportunity to serve this remarkable Academy.

As I look ahead, I am increasingly convinced that the future of family medicine in Louisiana will be shaped not by competition, but by collaboration. When physicians, residency programs, medical schools, health systems, and communities work together, we accomplish far more than any of us can alone. That spirit of partnership has long been one of our Academy's greatest strengths, and I hope to build upon it in the coming year.

I am especially excited about the opportunity our upcoming strategic planning journey represents. Together, we have a chance to reflect on where we have been, define where we want to go, and build a shared vision that strengthens our Academy and advances family medicine across Louisiana for years to come. The best ideas will come from the collective wisdom, experience, and passion of our members.

Thank you for your dedication to your patients, your communities, and our profession. I encourage each of you to stay engaged, share your ideas, and help shape this exciting next chapter.

I hope you enjoy FM 2026. I look forward to working alongside each of you as we write the next chapter of the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians together.

**Respectfully submitted,
Emilio Russo, MD, FAAFP
LAFP President-Elect**